

Commencement Bay Natural Resource Damage Assessment - Restoration Plan

Restoration Plan Database: Crystal Reports of Individual Plan Summaries

I. BASIC PLAN DATA

Plan name:

Commencement Bay Natural Resource Damage Assessment - Restoration Plan

Brief description of plan:

The Commencement Bay Conceptual Restoration Plan provides a framework for the Commencement Bay Natural Resource Damage Assessment (CB/NRDA) program to translate the preferred alternative-the Integrated Approach-of the programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) into on-the-ground restoration projects. If the preferred alternative is selected, the Conceptual Restoration Plan will become the Final Restoration Plan. The Integrated Approach will be a combination of projects designed to provide maximum benefit to Commencement Bay's injured Natural Resource Trustees. The scale of restoration activity that will be taken by this plan will depend upon the funds, property, and services made available through resolution of natural resource damage claims. The Restoration Plan will focus restoration actions within the primary study area, which covers approximately 25 square miles of Commencement Bay and the immediately surrounding area. This is the area where injury to natural resources of concern from releases of hazardous substances or discharges of oil principally occurred. This area consists of uplands, shorelands, open and tidal waters, mudflats, marshes and vegetated shallows. Most of the upland area is densely urbanized with extensive industrial, commercial and mixed use development.

Region the plan is located within:

Pacific Region

Watershed(s) included within the plan:

P290c

Area plan covers (in square miles):

1,000.00 square miles

Plan scale:

County

Plan's lead organization(s):

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Plan's Main Contact Information:

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On-line version of plan:

beta.darp.aspensys.com/northwest/cbay/pdf/restplan.pdf

Date of original plan:

1997

Date of plan update:

6/1998

II. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Plan includes restoration goals: Y

Level of detail of the goals:

MS

Summary of the goals:

1. Provide a functioning and sustainable ecosystem where selected habitats and species of injured fish and wildlife will be enhanced to provide a net gain of habitat function beyond existing conditions. 2. Integrate restoration strategies to increase the likelihood of success. 3. Coordinate restoration efforts with other planning and regulatory activities to maximize habitat restoration. 4. Involve the public in restoration planning and implementation. Objectives of the Middle Waterway Shore Restoration Project (model project) include;

1. Increasing the length of the natural shoreline edge along the +9 to +13 foot contour from 840 to 960 feet.
2. Providing a riparian buffer and transition zone from tidelflat to upland to screen, protect and support the integrity of the remaining original Middle Waterway mudflat and the diverse species that use this biologically productive area of the estuary.
3. Restoring a minimum of 0.23 acres of estuarine intertidal mud/sand habitat as mitigation for placing fill on a like acreage of intertidal mud/sand habitat at similar elevations.

Plan recommends or uses criteria for selecting restoration sites (e.g. cost benefit ratio, ecological benefits):

Y

Summary of the criteria:

The Panel developed criteria to analyze potential restoration sites in the primary study area. The required criteria screen out sites that do not attain a minimum level of (1) land availability, (2) source control and (3) restoration of injured natural resources or lost services. The preferred criteria are then used to rank suitable restoration sites as one of the following: -high importance (functional connectivity, physical location in the Bay, distance from sources of contamination or human disturbances, cost-effectiveness and sustainability; 1.medium importance (size, ownership and management, land use compatibility and water quantity and flow [unique criterion for freshwater stream and riparian sites relating to flooding and erosion potential]); or 2.lessor importance (public access). Project Selection; Once potential project sites have been inventoried, suitability for restoration can be assessed. A project-specific vision of what restoration techniques are conceptualized. Preliminary cost estimates are prepared and compared with available funding. The use of partnering opportunities or economies of scale that reduce costs or improve project benefits will be incorporated into project design and implementation, where feasible. The Restoration Plan will allow implementation of habitat restoration projects to occur sooner, rather than waiting until all the NRDA efforts are completed. Specific projects will be evaluated according to the selection criteria and feasibility studies (landscape ecology, legal, environmental, contamination), all within a Trustee-directed restoration framework. Preference is given to projects that benefit multiple species over those that benefit a single species. However, effective projects for restoring individual natural resources and services will also be considered.

Plan recommends restoration of specific project sites:

Y

Plan includes a discussion of funding sources:

Y

Plan addresses long-term protection of restored sites:

Y

Partners included in developing the plan:

Federal
State
Local
Port Authorities/Commissions
Business/Industry

Type(s) of public outreach included during plan development:

Held public workshops, meetings, open house, or scoping meetings
Held focus groups
Kept a contact list of interested parties
Was subject to a public comment period

Plan includes public outreach as part of plan implementation (e.g. annual public meeting, local group participation):

Y

Plan discusses the application of innovative approaches to restoration:

N

Plan make use of GIS mapping capabilities:

Y

Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for ecosystem level monitoring (baseline conditions) by:

G

Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for project level monitoring by:

G

The plan discusses or coordinates with other restoration plans covering the same geographic area:

Y

Other plan names:

Commencement Bay Cumulative Impact Study, reports by David Evans and Associates and Shapiro and Associates.

Plan contains detailed information on historic and/or current habitat size, rate of loss, acres restored or protected, etc.):

Y

Summary of this habitat information:

It is estimated that of the approximately 2,100 acres of intertidal mudflats and 4,000 acres of intertidal emergent marsh existing in 1877, less than 2% of these special aquatic habitats still survive. Historically, there were many off-river habitats in the primary study area such as sloughs, small streams and connected wetlands. Physical modification included sediment & debris buildup/silting, industrial construction, log storage/grounding, habitat fragmentation, suburban development, stormwater flooding and chemical contamination (paper mill and industrial effluent).